

Appl. No.: 09/529,543

July 8, 2004

Submission under 37 C.F.R. §312

Page 3

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 10, wherein the at least one other polyol present in addition to xylitol is selected from the group consisting of mannitol and lactitol.
3. - 4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 10, wherein the at least one other polyol is mannitol; lactitol; or mannitol and lactitol.
6. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 5, wherein the ratio of xylitol to mannitol is 90:10 to 98:2.
7. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 5, wherein the ratio of xylitol to lactitol is 90:10 to 98:2.
8. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim 5, wherein the xylitol:mannitol:lactitol ratio is between 90:1:9 or 90:9:1 and 98:1:1.

MERCK-2084

Appl. No.: 09/529,543

July 8, 2004

Submission under 37 C.F.R. §312

Page 4

9. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim 10, wherein ~~where~~ in the directly compressible tableting aid has ~~has~~ a water content of less than 1% by weight.

10. (Previously Presented) A process for producing a directly compressible tableting aid comprising a xylitol content of more than 90% by weight and a content of at least one other polyol of less than 10% by weight, produced by dissolving the xylitol in a solvent and spray drying or fluidized bed granulating, comprising:

- a) producing an aqueous solution by dissolving xylitol and at least one other polyol, the resulting mixture having a xylitol content of more than 90% by weight based on the total polyol content,
- b1) spraying the resulting mixture in a stream of air at a temperature of from 120°C to 300°C, evaporation of the water taking place, or
- b2) fluidizing the resulting mixture in a stream of air at a temperature of from 30°C to 110°C, evaporation of the water taking place, and
- c) isolating the tableting aid.

11. - 18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 5, wherein the ratio of xylitol to mannitol is in a range between 90:10 to 95:5.

20. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 5, wherein the ratio of xylitol to lactitol is in a range between 90:10 to 95:5.

MERCK-2084

Appl. No.: 09/529,543

July 8, 2004

Submission under 37 C.F.R. §312

Page 5

21. - 22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) A process for producing a tablet composition, comprising:

making an aqueous solution of xylitol and at least one other polyol, the resulting solution having a xylitol content of more than 90% by weight based on the total polyol content,

b1) spraying the resulting mixture in a stream of air at a temperature of 120°C - 300°C, evaporation of the water taking place, or

b2) fluidizing the resulting mixture in a stream of air at a temperature of 30°C - 110°C, evaporation of the water taking place, and

c) isolating the tableting aid.

24. - 25. (Canceled)

MERCK-2084